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Abolish the Statutory Revision Commission.

In May, 1889, the Legislature of this State passed a bill entitled "An Act to provide for the revision and consolidation of certain of the General Statutes of this State," providing for the appointment by the Governor of three Commissioners to prepare and report to the Legislature bills for the consolidation and revision of the General Statutes of the State. In the following year an act was passed making an appropriation for the continuance of the work of these Commissioners of Statutory

In June, 1895, an act was passed ordering the Governor to appoint three members of the bar to examine and report to the Legislature in what respects the Code of Civil Procedure could be revised and condensed.

The three Commissioners of Statutory Revision, appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 1889, are now CHARLES Z. LINCOLN of Little Falls, Mr. NORTHROP of Syracuse and Mr. JOHNSON of Oneonta, and the same persons are the Commissioners of Code Revision. These Commissioners have continued in office some eleven years, and their work has been worse than useless. The direct cost to the State of New York for salaries, clerk hire and expenses of the commission amounted on Dec. 31 last to \$203,077.88, and it is impossible to estimate what has been the indirect cost and damage to the State and to the bar. Their work has been wretched in the extreme. They have produced fifty-two general laws and 687 amendments of and corrections thereto made necessary by their initial blundering and carelessness. These amendatory acts in 1899 made up

21 per cent, of the laws passed that year. These Commissioners have proposed at this session of the Legislature forty-one bills, some four or five of which are reenactments of general statutes already passed by the Legislature, and among these forty-one bills are eleven bills which cover the law and practice now embraced and found the Code of Civil Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code. The Commissioners dissect and disintegrate our Code of Civil Procedure, and propose to make three separate acts out of the

necessary alterations. The Commissioners ask for \$22,000 for their expenses for the coming year, and desire to be continued in office until the meeting of the next Legislature.

Bills have been introduced in the Senate and in the Assembly for the abolition of the offices of Commissioners of Statutory Revision and of Commissioners of Code Revision, and the bar of the State is practically unanimous in advocating the immediate abolition of these commissions. The constant dickering with statute law and with codes by careless and incompetent revisers merely serves to annoy and harass the members of the bar and litigants, and is productive only of confusion and expense. The State could better afford to pay these men to do nothing, than to allow them to continue to draw salaries and incur expenses for careless and damaging interference with existing law.

The Association of the Bar of this city has taken vigorous and decided action in favor of the proposed abolition of the commission, and action to the same end has been taken by the bar associations of Brooklyn and of Westchester county: the bar of Buffalo and that of Rochester have also joined in the movement.

The bill which was introduced by Mr. ELSBERG in the Senate is now on the order of the third reading, while the Assembly bill just reported from the Rules Committee is now on the order of the second reading, but as the Legislature will adjourn within a few days, a special message from the Governor to the Legislature, urging the immediate passage of either the Senate bill or the Assembly bill, is needed to achieve the end desired.

The Military Tournament.

The Military Tournament, which has been in progress since Monday at the Madison Square Garden, has taken its place as an established amusement in this city. It is like the other annual exhibitions | at this time. given at the Garden, and affords more entertainment to a larger variety of amusement seekers than any of them. The crowds at the Garden during the week show

The tournament is under the management of the Military Athletic League, an association of amateur athletes composed of men of the Army and Navy, and members of practically all the State organizations In this neighborhood. The object of the league is to promote athletic sports in the National Guard and the Army and Navy; and the profits of the three tournsments held thus far, and those of the present meeting, have gone and will go toward equipping army posts and naval vessels with athletic apparatus. Each evening performance during the week has begun with an athletic meeting, at which various sorts of contests have been determined. The contestants have represented the Army, the Navy and Marine Corps, and almost every militia regimental organization in

zations from a greater distance. Following these athletic meetings has come the military part of the tournament: rough riding by a troop of United States eavalry and by the general service detachealisthenies by a company of United States States and State batteries. The Marine Corps has been represented, as well as the tion has been highly interesting as well as enlightening.

Reviews by distinguished persons have

have reviewed forces composed of detachments from twenty different organizations; o-night Gen. MERRITT will hold the final review of the week. The scenes at the eviews have been brilliant and unusual. The presence of these distinguished officers and officials shows that the importance of the tournament and the value of its management to the military and naval life of the country are recognized.

The present tournament has been even more interesting than its predecessors. The rough riding, the artillery driving, the quickness of the movements in even the orfinary drills, have been exciting, and the athletic contests will not be finished until 'the last man is out." The rough riding is better than that shown at any circus; it is not done only in a measured ring where the horses are kept at a certain pace; it is done in an arena the full size of the Garden. and the performers can and do repeat the same feats in the open air on their homestation parade ground. Public interest in our Army and Navy was excited by the war with Spain; it will be continued by a visit to the tournament.

The Senator and the Song Bird.

In the name of the protection of American ong birds, Senator HOAB introduced in December last a bill which, if passed by Congress, would impair or destroy the means of support of thousands of American working women.

It was not Senator Hoan's purpose to drive these industrious girls out of the trade by which they earn their living. He is too kind and grandfatherly an old gentleman to dream of such a thing. He was impelled merely by a sentimental and creditable desire to do what he could for the feathered songster twittering or trilling upon the tree branch; but as the Senator did not understand very well the facts about the fancy feather trade, he made a muddle of it.

Miss HELEN DEVINE'S letter, printed in THE STR vesterday must have convinced Senator HOAR already that his bill needs trimming. This intelligent working woman, who has earned her living at the feather trade for fifteen years, says that she never has used a song bird. The material employed in her industry is the plumage f edible birds that have been killed for food; yet Senate bill 1,383, the Hoar songbird bill, actually prohibits the importa tion of the feathers plucked from pigeons, geese or pheasants killed and eaten abroad and makes it an offence to transport such feathers from one State to another, or to sell or keep for sale the same in any Territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia.

There is something pathetic and yet partly humorous in the circumstance that he feather-working girls of America are obliged to lay down their feathers and take up their pens to protect a legitimate industry that is threatened, with the best intentions in the world, by one of the most benevolent of our Protectionist Senators.

The Political Situation in France.

Although the Waldeck-Rousseau Cabinet survived the attacks that were made on existing code with many foolish and unit last week the majority on which it rests s neither homogeneous nor trustworthy, and may collapse at any hour. What postpones the downfall of the present Premier s the doubt whether his opponents, among whom M. MÉLINE is the chief, could construct a durable Ministry without dissolving the Chamber of Deputies, and plunging the country into the political excitement time, not only to the Parisians, but to all Frenchmen who are interested in the Exposition, the opening of which is now not distant. Aware of this fact President LOUBET. has probably allowed it to be known that he will not request the Senate's assent to a dissolution until the Exposition is over.

There is still another reason for leaving the present Ministers in office. The Parisians thoroughly understand that, should the Prince of Wales refuse to recognize the Exposition on the ground that his royal mother has been brutally insulted in certain Paris newspapers, the number of English people who would visit the French capital during the summer would be signally reduced and the Exposition might prove a failure from a pecuniary point of view. If there is any French politician who official part assigned to England's representative in connection with the World's Fair. Then again, there is a widespread belief that M. DELCASSE is the one Minister who could induce the Czar and Emperor WILLIAM to visit Paris this summer. The commercial value of such a visit is recognized, and a diplomatist who is viewed with favor both in Berlin and St. Petersburg ought not to be removed from the Foreign Office

When the autumn comes, however, and the hotel keepers and shopkeepers of Paris shall have made their harvest, the Waldeck-Rousseau Cabinet will fail. It will then have lasted more than a year, a duration which seemed incredible at the time of its construction. There have been many Republic, but the acme of incongruity was Paris Commune. Not only, moreover, has Radicals been productive of discord within the Cabinet, but M. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU has found it impossible to satisfy the demands of the extreme left wing of his supporters without alienating the great body of Moderates, who, outside of Paris, Marseilles New York and Brooklyn, and some organi. Church has the Premier estranged many of BURNSIDE, HOOKER, MEADE and GRANT, who are convinced that the fight against clericalism has been carried far enough.

One of these measures is the Education ment from West Point; infantry drill and | bill, which, as we pointed out not long ago, aims to annihilate the schools managed by infantry; signalling by the National Guard | the teaching religious orders: this result signal corps, and artillery work by United it proposes to attain by forbidding the bestowal of any Government office upon a citizen unable to produce a certificate of Naval Militia of this State; and the exhibi-graduation from the State educational institutions. The second proceeding, which to many sincere friends of the present Republic seems ill advised, is the attempt to punbeen held from time to time during the ish certain members of the French Episcoweek. Thus far, Governor Roosevell, Sec- pate for their unfavorable comments on the

retary of War Root, and Gen. MILES Ministerial treatment of the Assumptionist Fathers and their newspaper, La Oroix. It will be remembered that the ecclesiastical organization just named was prosecuted by the Government on the ground that it was used for political purposes. That La Croix was so used would be denied by nobody who has ever seen that newspaper nevertheless, the impression became wide spread that the Assumptionists were dealt with somewhat too severely. At all events, the Archbishop of Paris paid a visit of sympathy to the monks after the conclusion of their trial, and several prelates, including the Bishop of Valence, wrote letters of condolence to La Croix, while the Archbishop of Aix did not hesitate to address a letter to the President of the Council himself, in which the latter's attitude throughout the affair was rebuked.

It is admitted by M. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU that such of his fellow citizens as are not officeholders have the right to express disapproval of his conduct, but he insists that | at seventy-five thousand. the right is not shared by State functionaries in receipt of State stipends. Under the Concordat the Bishops and the Paris priests are such functionaries. The banshment of the offending prelates was at first advocated, but the right of the Ministry to inflict such a punishment is doubtful, and it has been since proposed to enact a law imposing the penalty of imprisonment for from three months to two years when a criticism of Government measures has been introduced into pastoral letters. The expediency, however, of passing such a bill is questioned, and, in the hope of avoiding recourse to the measure, the Premier has requested the Pope to require or lawn shall be destroyed or altered to accomm the resignation of the Archbishop of Aix and the Bishop of Valence.

It is scarcely probable that LEO XIII. will accede to the request. He has, it is true, shown a willingness to go much further than some members of the French hierarchy think he should have gone in the attempt to reconcile French Catholics to the Bepub lican régime. The demand, however, for the resignation of Bishops is an instrument of discipline usually reserved for offences against the Papacy itself, and to employ that instrument for the purpose of chastising prelates whose expression of opinion is distasteful to secular authorities would be an act of extraordinary complaisance to the civil power. In the judgment of the Premier's Republican critics he should never have requested an interposition which the Pontiff is almost certain to refuse.

We repeat that, but for M. DELCASSÉ whose presence in the Cabinet is almost a guaranty of the success of the Exposition. the Waldeck - Rousseau Ministry would have been upset long ago. If it can manage, however, to survive a few weeks onger, it should last until the autumn.

The Franchise Tax.

The trouble about the Franchise taxation begins in the law itself. The law estabishes a central board of Tax Commissioners whose duty it is to estimate the value of all and each of the franchises in every town and city of the State. This imposes too great a labor upon the Commissioners, invests them with too great power, and can only result in friction, injustice and interminable litigation. It would have been much better to levy in a general act an undeviating tax in the shape of a certain percentage of the gross fluancial receipts of the corporations affected.

Such a percentage should at first be small. It must be remembered that most of the corporations in question perform attending a general election. An appeal to public services at small cost. People the voters would be unwelcome at this have invested their money in these properties relying upon the policy of the State regarding taxation which has been established in the past. A change in this policy ought at first to be slight and future changes should be gradual.

We have not the slightest doubt that the proposed new taxes upon the Metropolitan Traction Company and our other local corporations, as given in yesterday's newspapers, will never be collected. They amount to confiscation, which ought to be and will be strenuously resisted.

Boiled Eggs and Historical Art.

Mr. EDMUND HOPE DRIGGS is a Representative in Congress from the Third distriet of this State, which comprises seven wards in the borough of Brooklyn. In the has shown that he possesses the gift of scribes himself as a fire insurance broker of M. Delcasse, the present head of the having served in the Revolutionary War, French Foreign Office. He even man- one as a Captain, the other as a suraged to explain away the bestowal of a geon of the Connecticut militia. On adroitness, he can be relied upon, no doubt, the end that the immortal name of covered on the Sumner an automatic eggboiler which was said to have cost seventy- Pauncefote convention. five dollars!

Seventy-five dollars is a large sum in the eyes of Hope Driggs when it is approsoldiers of the United States on their way to Manila. Strangely enough, however, incongruous Ministries under the Third this same Hope Driges at the same moment of time is unblushingly endeavorreached when two Socialists became colling to impose a tax of seventy-five thousand leagues of the Marquis DE GALLIFFET, who dollars upon the people of this country, for was the most ruthless opponent of the the purpose of buying what he calls a "historical art collection" from a resident the presence of Socialists and of advanced of Brooklyn. The War Department, according to Hope Driggs, has done a grievous wrong to the public in paying seventy-five dollars for an egg-cooking machine. To make amends he would command the Secretary of War "to purchase from the widow of EDWIN FORBES of Brooklyn, N. Y., his and a few other large cities, constitute the historical studies and sketches of battles, majority of the genuine Republican elec- marches, camps, incidents and characters tors. Especially by two of the recent of the Union armies commanded by Gens. measures simed against the Catholic McClellan, McDowell, Banks, Pope the men who have been stanch upholders | made in the field during the years 1862, of the present Parliamentary regime, but 1863 and 1864." There are two hundred and fifty-one of these productions.

The bill for this purpose, which has been introduced in the House of Representative by Hope Driogs, also instructs the Secre tary of War to buy from the widow of En-WIN FORBES certain original drawings of "Life Studies of the Great Army;" forty original steel-faced etchings illustrative of the same subjects; a set of artist's proofs of these life studies, signed; and "the rough proofs made during the execution of the work, showing the progress of each plate in its different stages." The bill does not authorize the Secretary to buy these things as cheaply as he can, not exceeding subject to trances and bulletins.

a specified price, but fixes seventy-five thousand dollars as the sum which must be paid "upon the transfer to the United States by the said widow of EDWIN FORDES of all her right, title and interest in and to

said art collection."

Mr. EDWIN FORBES may have been a great artist, and his works may possess the value assigned to them by Hope Driegs. We have no information on the subject which will enable us to affirm or deny either proposition. We do venture to assert, however, that the art collection in question is not sufficiently well known to warrant its acquisition by the Government without some further evidence of its merit than the opinion of a fire insurance broker of Revolutionary stock. Furthermore, Congress should insist that Hope Driggs withdraw his objections to the Sumner's automatic egg-boiler at seventy-five dollars before consenting to the purchase of his "Life Studies of the Great Army," and so forth,

Parks and Their Statues.

It has been many years since the New York Park Commission has done anything more praiseworthy than to adopt rules to this effect concerning statues:

No statue, bust or memorial building shall erected in any part of any park where the scenery is of a predominating natural character, and statues shall be placed only as adjuncts to buildings, bridges or viaducts. Statues of great national, civic or universal interest

and of great artistic beauty may be placed in any of the small parks at the intersection of two or more avenues. No existing natural scenery, rock, woodland, drive

any statue or memorial. No statuary, however satisfactory as a work of art. shall be accepted unless it will help to heighten the

beauty of the landscape. Statuary and structures already in the parks, if not placed in conformity with these rules, may, if condemned by the Art Commission, be removed by the

The parks are the haven of statuary sent to them through motives of many sorts. bad or good. Broad public spirit and patriotism may erect such a majestic monument as that of Washington in Union Square, or gratitude to a benefactor on the part of a special society may set up an atrocity like that which, under the title of SAMUEL S. Cox, shakes its ghastly finger toward the Cooper Union.

Of statuary spring is perennial. Individuals of small note die, but their friends desire to commemorate their fame by keeping a statue of them before the eyes of all. A citizen of wealth but limited insight into the secrets of art, is moved by the accident of his fancy to contribute a bust of somebody or a figure of something, and, with the assistance of a second or third rate artist. and influence to which the resistance is all too feeble, he perpetuates his generosity publicly in the form of a statue in some park. And so, in many ways, the parks become disfigured with objects of bronze or stone undeserving in subject, unworthy in execution and essentially discordant with the sentiment of the spot where they are placed.

Unless some check were put upon the spread of these contributions throughout the green territory of our more important parks, their charm and their character would inevitably before long be seriously impaired. The present Park Board may congratulate itself upon an act so enlightened and timely as that which we have just reported.

A Vice-President Speaks.

Mr. JAMES GUSTAVUS WHITELBY is introduced to the public by the Forum for April as "Vice-President of the International Congress of Diplomatic History"-whatver that may be or may have been. The Vice-President of the International Congress of Diplomatic History writes an article concerning the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, in which he dismisses one of the objections to the treaty in this authoritative and somewhat summary fashion:

"It is an error to suppose that the neutralization of the canal is contrary to the Monroe Doctrine. That doctrine was designed to prevent a combination of European powers from intervening in the internal affairs of the American nations. An agreement among European and American States to neutralize a portion of the isthmus is an engagement not to meddle with that portion of America. Hence, it is a contract to observe the Monroe Doctrine as far as that part of the isthmus is concerned. The Hay-Pauncefote Treaty is in accordance, with the Monroe Doctrine.

Vice-President James Gustavus White-Congressional Directory Mr. DRIGGS de- LEY of the International Congress of Diplomatic History is here speaking of the conciliating British public opinion, it is Revolutionary stock, two of his ancestors | treaty as it was negotiated and submitted to the Senate. That treaty invites a combination of European powers to cuarantee the neutrality of the canal in time of war decoration upon the man who caricatured | Wednesday be evidently determined to | when the United States is a party to the Queen Victoria, and, after that proof of do a little revolutionizing himself, to war. That is to say, the treaty contemplates and warrants the intervention of to persuade the Prince to perform the Hope Driggs should not perish from off European powers to coerce this Governthe earth. He therefore rose in his place ment in case we should ever attempt in Congress and told a number of tales in to use our own canal for our own regard to the extravagant fitting out of the military advantage by closing it to the army transport Sumner which prove to be warships of an enemy. It would then grossly exaggerated. He made these false become the duty of the European guarstatements the basis of an attack upon the antors of the canal's neutrality to enter Administration for misappropriating the upon American territory and intervene in money exacted from the people by taxation | the affairs of the American continent to the under the War Revenue bill; and his soul extent of forcing the United States Governwas filled with horror because he had dis- ment, if the European powers are able so to do, to abide by the provisions of the Hay-

The man who dogmatically maintains that the establishment of European authority over a canal across the Central priated for the preparation of food for the | American isthmus would be no infraction of the Monroe Doctrine has no business to be Vice-President of an International Congress of Diplomatic History. He has no business even to be a doorkeeper of such an institution.

Pressure on Bryan that may induce him to tend the National Convention - St. Louis He, while "Pressure" is good. Probably his speech of acceptance and delirium is already in hot storage

Gen. JIM WEAVER of Iowa, once a canlidate for President, and still a Populist of fame, is justly grieved because he has been represented as urging Col. BEYAN to abandon and "betray" silver. "I had supposed," he says plaintively, "that no one would have accused me of abandoning the principles for which I have stood during the last quarter of century." No good and true man would have accused him so. No well-informed student of the life and public services of Gen. Jry WEAVER would have believed him guilty of an attempt to "deviate into sense.

HOKE SMITH quits politics. - Erring Eschange. When was the Hon. HOKE SMITH in politics?

In a letter to a Mississippi Democrat the Hon JAMES K. JONES, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, asserts that "the masses of the people are thoroughly aroused. and are moving as I have never seen them before." Mr. Jones's skill and necuracy as a political seer are well known. It is a little strange, however, that in his review of movements he has not detected the strong Demoeratic desire to remove him from his chairmanship and put in his place somebody less

IN SOUTH APRICA.

The first fighting in the neighborhood of Bloemfontein since the occupation, took place vesterday at Karee Siding, six miles beyond the Modder River, on the railway to Kroonstad where the Boers had taken up a position and were harassing the submitted burghers. The result was the retreat of the Boers to Brandfort, fifteen miles beyond Karee, and a loss to the British of eight officers and a bundred men killed and wounded. The British force engaged must have been greatly superior to that of the Boers, as it comprised a whole division of infantry, two brigades of cavalry and a regiment of mounted infantry. It remained in occupation of the Boer position after the figh and now forms the advanced guard of Lord Roberts's army on the road to Kroonstad.

A Pretoria despatch of Thursday states that

Bryan in 1900 than they were in 1806, and for after a bombardment by the Boers of the easons which I shall proceed to give. British camp at Pourteen Streams on the Vaal River on Wednesday, the latter evacuated their camp during the night. A Kimberley despate speaks of a column having left there and passed through Barkly West on Monday. pre-sumably destined for the relief of Maleking. while another states that the troops sent int the Barkly West district have been imperatively recalled by order of Lord Roberts, and that the Boers had recompled Campbell to the eastward of Griquatown. What the result of the renewed bombardment of Mafeking has been has not been reported from Pretoria, nor has any further news of Col. Plumer's column been received since the 16th, so that the fate of Col. Baden-Powell and his garrison still appears to hang in the balance. There is no news of any kind from Natal from either side There is a curious report from Lorenzo Marques that it has been proposed by a section of the inhabitants of Presoria that no defence should be made there, but that the seat of government should be transferred to Lyden-

from Pretoria to Koomati Poort on the Portuguese frontier, and that from Leydedorp in the outpanaborg to the same place. The recapitulation of the British army in the field in South Africa gives an effective fighting total of about 135,000 men and 336 guns. The forces composing it are 19 regiments of cavalry. 9 companies of Imperial Yeomanny of 116 men each. 10 batteries of horse, 45 of field and 2 of mountain, artillery, 14 companies of garrison artillery and 18 of engi neers, 111 battalions of regular and militia infantry, and 37 colonial contingents of varying strength, aggregating : bout 29,000 men. In addition to the regular artfliery there are some few colonial guns and corps machine gune; and the mounted infantry form separate osganizations. The rest of the large army

burg, in the angle formed by the railway

Senator Honr's Latest Joke.

under Lord Roberts is made up of the various

non-combatant services and the transport

Sensitive Hear's Latest Joke.

From the Boston Bearing Transmipt.

Washington, March 27.—Senator Hoar's comment on Senator Petitigrew's pronunciation of Latin has been widely repeated as one of the brightest hits of the senaton. Mr. Petitigrew, who is a tireless talker, incisted on using the phrase "ad infinitum," with great frequency, pronouncing the longer word with an accont on the second syllable. Finally one of his associates corrected him, saying: Give it the long i, Senator," which Mr. Hoar over-hearing, promptly remarked: "The Senator is probably making the i short to save the time of the Senate."

Afghan Fanatics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The fanalle who slew District Judge A. H. Hunter and Lieut Green of the Sappers at Peshawar on Monday las must have been an Afghan religious devotee, a man who, in order to obtain the rank of Ghazi, devoted his ife to killing an infidel.

landmarks in the history of northern India. Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, was killed by an Afghan devotee in the year 1538. Earl Mayo, the distinguished Viceroy of India, was siain by an Afghan; and so was the Chief Justice of Calcutta, Mr. Norman. These three "Ghazis" were natives of

Peshawar association in Peshawar was stain in the portice of his bungalow in 1861. Major Adams, the Chief Magistrate of the district, was struck down at the gateway of Peshawar city in 1864. The Rev. Isadore Loonthal, a converted Jew, and a gradu ate of Princeton, N. J., was shot in his garden in the same year. Capt. Hand was stabbed when driving in his buggy with his flances a few years previously. Major Fulton, who had been mistaken for one of the Judges, was shot by a fanatic on the mail of the Peshawar cantonments. There have also been other assassinations in Peshawar of which I

Gold Democrate Must Understand.

From the Florida Times Union We credit those who call themselves "Gold Dem crats" with good intentions, and, therefore we ar all the more grieved to see them persist in the course of fatuous and profitless opposition. They have had four years within which to make their appeal and the court of ultimate resort has decided against them. Mr. Bryan is a solid fact sensible w all our perceptions. His control of the organization is another fact. Let us abide by the organization Let us stand together.

For Our Own.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Apropos of the editorial in this morning's edition of your paper, headed "For Our Own." in which you mention Mrs. Cassatt's organization, the followin clipped from the Philadelphia Press may be of interest. R. P. K. NEW YORK, March 30.

THE ABSENT MINDED NATION Bu "Kara" with Sincere Apologies to Mr. Kipbing. More than \$11,000 has been raised in America for he reitef of Tommy Atkins's widows and orphans Mrs. A. J. Cassatt and a committee of Philadelphia ladles have started a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of the American soldiers. Now we's shouted for old England, and we've passed

around the hat. And we've given each according to his means Let us stop the blooming nonsense-say fust long enough to chat Of the soldler in the bloody Philippines!

We're an absent minded nation, and we're somewhat short of wight And we've got this Anglomania to the bone-

but when it comes to bleeding and a-dying in the nght. Why not spare a bit of pity for our own

to Duke's son, no sir nor son of a hundred kingst Forty thousand rank and file gone to Manila Bay Though Atkinsfalls at Spion Kop -a Filipino stings So, start a fund on our own account -pay! pay! pay!

Por Atkins, and the things he left behind in pawn-But they haven't got a notion as to just exactly how The war with Aguinaldo's getting on! Ve're an absent-minded nation, and our hearing' very bad. But, when Johnny's working hard we shouldn't

There's a lot of Mrs. So-and So's a patronessing now

flout him-And while chasing Aguinaldo, he may take it rather That we've gone and clean forgotten all about him No Duke's son, nor Earl's son, but sons of the country

(Democret, Republican, it's all the same to-day) And Tommy Atkins's wife is not the only wife who' So, start a fund on our own account-and pay! pay pay

There are concerts quite promiscuous for the Tommy Atkins crowd. And the folks are dropping money in the tile But the fellow in the Philippines is not a shoutin

rough.

Else there's none of us have heard him all the while He has thought that Uncle Sammy is the proper sort But an absent-minded nation does without him And when he's invalided 'cause the rebels used him

Cook's son, butcher boy, son who wants to roam Son of some sturdy farmer folk gone to the blood We're fond, of course, of the Atkins lad but others ar nearer home-

So start a fund on our own account-and pay! pay-

Why, he finds that we've forgotten all about him !

WHAT WILL GOLD DEMOCRATS DOY The Situation Which Will Confront Them in

the Coming Canvass. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I find hat my Democratic friends very generally are now wrestling with the question whether they shall vote for Bryan at the next election, though all of them voted either for Mr. McKinley or for Gen. Palmer in 1806. Naturally enough, they are anxious to vote for the Democratic party, for the thought of again contributing actively to its defeat is altogether distasteful to them. Under the influence of that partisan prejudice hey say, with wry faces, that they have braced hemselves to swallow even the inevitable nomination of Bryan and adopt him as their candidate. I tell them, however, that when the election comes they will be of a different mind and will be no more willing to support

Bryan's nomination will precipitate a conflict between the conservative forces of American society and the elements which would disturb and destroy the social and political safeguards of our national prosperity which will be even more ominous than that of 1800. His campaign, under the propulsion of influences new to American politics which neither he nor the Democratic party will be able to control in 1900 any more than they could in 1896, will arouse general alarm in quarters Ifke those of the conservative Democrats. Instead of checking those influences Bryan will be unable to prevent them from increasing in violence. Only as their representative has he the strength, which indubitably is now his, to dominate the Demoeratic party against the opposition and the cealed distrust of such Democrats as those of whom I have spoken. They are powerless; be is all powerful, so that there is every reason to expect that his renomination will be by acciamation. Starting thus, his candidact will be halled and pushed by the radical ele ments as their special triumph. Because of their first defeat at the polls, their zeal will be even more flery than before. They will look on the election as their last chance to obtain the permanent mastery of the Democratic party and through it of Congress and th National Administration; and they will fight with their utmost strength.

The question which will be brought foreibly setore Democrats as the campaign proceeds will therefore be whether they are to assist in this effort to revolutionize their party permanently, in accordance with the spirit first loosed by the Chicago platform, or whether fidelity to their political convictions and regard for true Democratic interest does not require them to resist it with all their power. If Bryan is again defeated next November his power in the Democratic party and that of the fufluences behind him will be broken finally; if he succeeds the Democratic party will be the most dis-tinctively radical and revolutionary party which has ever appeared in American politics. steadily growing more and more offensive to old-fashioned Democratic sentiment. A new ers in our politics will have been ushered in. and as time goes on Democratic sanction will be given to social and political theories which will take the breath away from those who adhere to the old Democracy. That such is the present Democratic drift under the propulsion of the influences behind Bryan must be obvious to every discerning mind.

The election next November, is may now be ssumed with something like certainty, will take place at a time of business progress and prosperity unexampled in our history, and that good fortune will be so plainly, so unmistaleably the consequence of the defeat of Bryan in 1838 that there will be no doubt on the subject in any reasonable mind. Contrasted with the bservations of that prevailing prosperity will be the remembrance in every such mind of the depression and calamity of the four years preceding the election of Mr. McKinley; though shall not lay the responsibility for that better experience on the Democratic party alone. One of the most active causes of it, however, was the ruinous uncertainty as to the currency provoked by the inability of Mr. Cleveland to resist the increasing Democratic influences which brought about the nomination of Bryan and the 16 to 1 platform and campaign

in 1896. The defeat of Bryan settled that dard was preserved by the election of Mr. McKinley and the prosperity which at once ensued will still be in evidence when November somes. The Republican pledge to maintain the gold standard has been redeeme; practically in the passage of the Currency act, and, provided Bryan is again defente l next November, the consequent prosperity will continue. If, however, as every sagacious man well understands, Bryan is elected this country will fall back immediately into another period of depression. Doubt will oppress the whole financial and business and industrial world: foreign capital will take alarm; enterprise will halt, for new misgivings as to the security of the existing monetary standard will arise. Bryan's election would carry with it of course the control of the House of Representatives by the forces behind him. and no protection for the gold standard would remain except a perilous majority in the Senate, subject to destruction by those influences or by the chances of life and death. No reasonable man would dare to bank on a security so shaky; and we should be back in the suds again. An experiment whosly novel in American politics would have been made, with possibilities which no one could foresee, and it would be an experiment not less fearfully re-

garded by Democrats than by Republicans. I have no hesitation, therefore, in telling my gold Democratic friends that even if they have persuaded themselves in March that they are going to face the inevitable and vote for Bryan they will not actually put in such a vote in November. This country will do some heavy thinking in the next six or seven months. and as a consequence it is sure to come to.a. common sense conclusion. A TERICAN. NEW YORK. March 28.

First Statue for the Hall of Fame-Gerry. TO THE EUTFOR OF THE SUN - Sir: I wish to nake a suggestion as to the first name to be com memorated in the New York University's "Hall of Fame." What could be more appropriate than the rection of a statue, heroic in size, or even larger, of Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry? Although be a Commodore, is would seem more appropriate that he should be honored than that an arch should be erected to our third Admiral. In our history Commodore Gerry is the only man who has proved to be greater than the Constitution of a sovereign State, greater than the courts and beyond all responsibility to the people. In fact, he is the only man America has yet | perhaps less exagreration, one might say, 'Seck the produced who bears a likeness to the imperial auto erat of all the Russias.

I need not say that this memorial should be erected it once, for Commodore Gerry threatens us that he will resign some of his high functions if the Legislature breaks away from his control. It may be that ture breaks away from his control. It may be that he will become a private citizen again, and then there would be difficulty in ziving him the reward he has a right to claim. Republic might brover bially ungrateful, and the fielde public might forget his unique service and choose rather to honor a Hamilton, a Fulton, a Livingston, or some other citizen of the State who was so lacking in spirit as to be willing to live under its laws and Constitution.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Vent Ver Dubs. From the Nashtille Banner

Col. Doak's point on the Banner is well taken, but he himself don't seem to know why. He says that 'vense dubs," as the Banner uses it, is tatally wrong, but he says nothing about the other egregious error the Banner falls into in "venture dubs." Both of these are purest idiocisms. The boy intends to say I prevent your dubs," as he has a right to do under the rules regulating dubs, fudge, kicks, evers for coundance," and not "rounduns," as the Banner roundance, as the Banner again errs), ups, trackince, &c. It was a tongue race, and the glibbest, sulckest boy with his mouth won, and hence it was boiled down until it become "vent you" and then "ventyer." I can prove this by every boy now in Lincoln county, including, also, all those scattered up and down the earth who were reased there, and I have seen several hundred those. sand fights over who said it first.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ser: Skip Manog s a Democratic politician living in Lyttleton, Col. Can you find room for him? JAMES P. MULLINS, City Auditor's Office,

DENVER, March 27.

THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

Final Conference Yesterday With the Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, March 30.-The members of the Philippine Commission had a final conference with the Secretary of War this afternoon, at which all the phases of the Philippine situation were discussed. The question of situation were discussed. The question of cooperation between the commission and the military authorities was considered, and it was made plain to the commission that the military forces would give them full support and that Gen. Otis would use every effort to carry out the commission's ideas. It was explained that the military authorities will be subordinate to the commission in the administration of civil affairs.

nate to the commission in the administration of civil affairs.

President McKinley gave a digner to-night in honor of the commission. The dinner was informal and was served in the private dining room of the White House. No ladies were present. Besides the members of the Cabinet, all of whom, except Secretary Hay, were present, the guests were Judge William Tatt, chairman; and Prof. Dean C. Worcester, Luke F. Wright, Henry C. Ide and Prof. Bernard Moses, commissioners; Senstor Turley of Tennessee, Representative Cannon of Ininois, Representative Conjer of Wisconsin, Gen. Joseph Wheeler, Col. Charles Penby, Col. Thomas H. Barry and George W. Jerkins of New York.

All the officers of the commission have been selected with the exception of the Secretary. The commission is waiting to hear from Charles M. Pepper, to whom the secretaryship was offered.

Charles M. Pepper, to whom the secretaryahly was offered.

The Spanish Secretary will be Arthur W. Fergusson, a Spanish scholar of ability, who was the interpreter of the American Peace Commission at Paris and signed the several protocols as one of the American representatives. He was the interpreter also of the Pan-American Conference. Mr. Fergusson is a lawyer by profession, residing in Washington. The Assistant Secretary will be Rutherford Corbin, son of the Adjutant-General of the Army. He was Assistant Secretary of the first Philippine Commission and managed to see some of the fighting in MacArthur's came palgo.

paign.
Frank A. Branagan, the chief of the State
Department Bureau of Accounts, will be the
disbursing officer of the commission. He was
disbursing officer of the American Peace Come
mission at Paris.

NAVAL COMMITTEE DIVIDED.

Failed to Agree on the Armor Question and on Building Ships in Navy Yards.

WASHINGTON, March 30. The last effort to harmonise the conflicting views of the members of the House Committee on Naval Affairs in regard to constructing ships in Government navy yards and on the price of armor failed this morning, and a majority and minority report on the Naval Appropriation bill will be

presented to the House. Bepresentative Metcalf (Bep., Cal.) at to-day's meeting of the committee made a motion to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to have three ships constructed in Government yards one at the Norfolk one at the Brooklyn and one at the Moreok. One at the harostra and one at the Mare Island Navy Yard. A point of order was made against the motion on the ground that a similar motion had been defeated, and as Mr. Mescarl had not voted with the majority he could not move to reconsider. The point of order was sustained. Mr. Meyer of Louisana, who had voted with the majority, had indicated an intention to make a motion to reconsider, but did not do so. The committee would accept no proposition in regard to the establishment of an armor plant in any contingency, and the Democrate then decided to submit a minority report.

The bill provides that the Secretary of the Navy shail purchase armor for the three ships under construction, about 7.400 tons, at the most reasonable price possible, not to exceed \$545 a ton. The minority report will be signed by all the Democrate, with the exception of Representative Meyer and possibly Representative Cummings. Mr. Metcalf will either submit his views separately or sign the minority report. At the instance of Representatives Mind and Meccal, the right was reserved to each member of the committee to oppose any of the provisions of the bill on the floor of the House.

The majority report will be submitted by Representative Foss, acting chairmen of the committee, early next week. This will be the first time in several years that a minority report has been submitted from this committee. one at the Mare Island Navy Yard. A point of

An Episcopal Greeting. From the Tablet.

From the Tables.

Mr. Thomas Arnold tells a good story of the landing of Dr. Alexander, the first Anglicus Bishop of Jerusalem at Jaffa. The Greeks on the shore, whose language is the lingua Franca of debased Italian commonly, spoken in Syria, duly impressed by the episcopal shovel-hat and knee-breeches, cried out in admiration: Vescovol Vescovol? (Bishop). Mrs. Alexander followed. The Greeks were pussied, but being informed that she was the Bishep's wife rose to the occasion with a shout of "Vescoval Vescoval." This made the next step easier, so that when a little procession of four or five children followed their mother up the beach, the Greeks and screamed out: "Vescovini! Vescovini!

Foreign Notes of Real Interest. Mr. Punch has given up his home at 85 Fleet street. as the building is to be torn down to widen the street. Steamboats are to be put on the Dead Sta for traffic etween the villages on the banks. The first boat is

already on the way. Germany's war ford is on the lookout for an up-todate war charlot. He has offered a priso-of \$20,000 for the best war motor car.

Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, the oldest flag officer i the British Navy list, is travelling in North Borneo at the age of \$2 years. He saw service in Borneo waters when a young man, chasing pirates, and published his "Expedition to Borneo, with Rajah Brooket Journal "in 1847. Por this year's Salon, though each artist is limited

to one painting, 3,286 pictures have been sent in, exclusive of those which are hors concours, a much larger number than last year, when every one could submit two pictures to the jury. At the very outset M. Benjamin Constant quarrelled with the rest of the jury and withdrew from the Salon. Russia will be the first European country visited by the Shah of Persia, next summer. He will proceed by way of Tiffis in the Caucasus to Moscow and St.

Petersburg. About the middle of June he will go to Berlin and thence to Paris and England. His return will be by way of Paris, Vienna, Constantinople and Batoum. His tonr will last six months. At Bosco Reale on the slope of Vesuvius ness Pompeil, where the great silver treasure was found a few years ago, recent excavations have brought to Prisco villa a great peristyle and four large rooms

light the most remarkable paintings of the Roman have been unearthed, the walls of which are covered by swenty large frescoes of rich coloring and more careful execution than any hitherto known. The light will cause the paintings to fade as quickly as those at Pompell and in the Naples Museum. Prof. Centre Lombroso, whose object of late seems to be to being his "science" of criminology into

disrepute, has written an article on "Bteyeling in Crime" in the Nuova Antologia, in which he says "Of all the mechanical inventions of our time, none has obtained such extraordinary importance as the cause or instrument of crime as has the bicycle. If the somewhat exaggerated opinion was formerly held, that the cause of every male crime should be sought in woman, as is expressed by the too celebrated phrase, 'Cherchez ha femme!' to-day, with sleycle! The profive for a great part of the thefts and robberies committed by young members of good society, in Italy at least, is found in the desire to possess a bicycle." Yet cycling has hardly found its way into those parts of Italy, like Sicily and Calabria, where clever stealing is reckoned no disgrace, but has its hold chiefly on orderly north and central Italy. Prof. Lombroso counts on a dreadful increase in crime when the passion for the bleyeld once strikes south Italy.

For the Tavernier collection of impressionist pie tures a total of 422,627 francs was obtained in Paris, The star picture of the sale was "L'Inondation" by Sisley, who died young, which brought 43,000 francs. There were seven other paintings by the same artist sold. "A Street at Ville d'Avray." 6,600 francs; "House on the Loing," 5,600 francs; "First Snow at Veneux Nadon," 5,100 francs; "Straw rick." 7,100 "Street in Sevres," 7,100 francs! "Versailles francs. " Road." 8,050 francs: "Banks of the Loing." 9,050 francs. For the other pictures the highest prices were Boudin, "The Commercial Dack, Brussels," 11,600 francs; Fantin-Latour, "The Tollet," 13,000 francs Arlana Abandoned," 8.800 francs; Lépine, "Canal a Saint Dents," 6.900 francs," The Orne att aen," 5,500 francs: Manet, "The Cork," 4.800 francs; Claude Monet "The Downs at Pourville," 7,500 frames, "Chi rch a Vernon," 2,500 frames, "View in Holland," 8,800 francs, "Sainte Adresse," 8,800 francs; A. Renote, "Place Clichy," 6,000 francs. Of Damnier's water colors "The Drinking Song" brought 10,002 francs, Before the Hearing," 4,100 fra c . and olleagues" 3,250 (ranes. Degas's pastels ilgh prices: "The Ballet," 14,000 franc ointes," 11,600 francs, "Ballabile," 7,800 'Arlequin," 6,960 france. Besides these Coro Faucheur" was sold for 6,100 francs and Puvis - J

Chavannes's "Vigilance" for 10,700 renes.